

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-13 will be pending. No new matter has been added. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejection for indefiniteness in response to Applicants' last submission.

Applicants address the Examiner's remaining rejections below.

**Novelty**

Claims 1-13 remain rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as anticipated by Wasserscheid et al. (CAS No. 136:200188) ("Wasserscheid 1"); Holbrey et al. (CAS No. 138:338049) ("Holbrey"); and Wasserscheid et al. (CAS No. 140:78757) ("Wasserscheid 2"). Applicants traverse the rejection as applied to the claims as amended herewith.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 7 to accurately recite that when Q+ is an imidazolium compound, then X- is not an alkylsulfate. This is what Applicants initially intended and the recitation of only the sulfate was an oversight. Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out the discrepancy between the claim language and the structure appearing in the claims. The amendment is believed to overcome the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

**Double Patenting**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13 on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 30 of U.S. co-pending Application No. 10/549,223 to Zhou et al. ("Zhou"). See final Office Action at page 3.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons already of record, but do not reiterate them here. Moreover, Applicants additionally assert that the rejection is improper in view of the fact that claim 30 of Zhou was canceled without prejudice as being directed to non-elected subject matter in the last paper filed with the Office. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

### **Claim Objections**

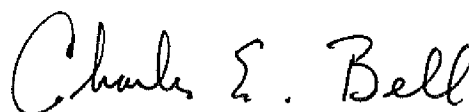
Claim 13 was objected to for improper claim format. Regrettably, it appears that the last page of claims in Applicants' response of 04/09/09 was inadvertently omitted from the response. Accordingly, Applicants have reproduced claim 13 herein as it was intended to be amended in the previous response.

Applicants have additionally amended claim 6 herein to insert a semicolon following the sixth compound. The claims are believed to be in proper format and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

On the basis of the foregoing amendments and remarks, action on the merits of the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested. Should any questions or issues arise concerning this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 03-4083.

Respectfully submitted,



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Charles E. Bell, Reg. No. 48,128  
Attorney for Applicants  
Cytex Industries Inc.  
Telephone: (203) 321-2200  
Facsimile: (203) 321-2971  
**Customer Number 08015**